

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, the Applicants submit the below remarks and respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of these remarks.

The Examiner objected to the specification. The Applicants amended the specification to overcome the objections.

The Examiner objected to Figure 1 of the drawings for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because it includes a reference sign not mentioned in the specification. The Applicants have amended the specification to overcome this objection. No new matter has been added. The Examiner also objected to Figure 3 for failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "355" has been used to designate both the "Data Analysis Module" and "Performance Metrics Device." Figure 3 has been amended and removed reference character "355" and replaced by reference character "335" for "Data Analysis Module" box in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(4). No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13, 15-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by an article, "Mine over Matter," Journal of Business Strategy, Vol. 19, No. 9, Jul/Aug 1998, pages 22-26, (hereinafter Baker). The Examiner rejected claims 4, 7, 11, 14, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of an article, "The Answer Machine," The Magazine for Database Professionals, Vol. 8. No. 1, January 2000, page 58, (hereinafter Feldman). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons set out below.

The references individually or in combination do not teach or suggest all limitations of claim 1, or the other independent claims of the present application. The Applicants' arguments shall be presented with respect to claim 1. However, these comments are applicable to the other independent claims of the present application, and

the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these comments and remarks when reviewing the other independent claims for allowability.

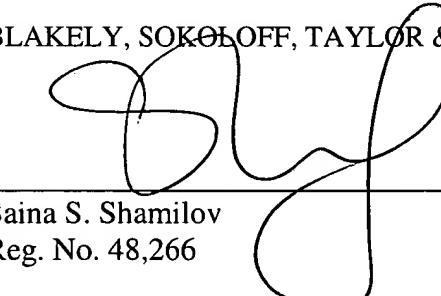
Neither Baker nor Feldman disclose or suggest "receiving a set of search criterion submitted by a user and automatically and transparently modifying the search criterion if a historical analysis of previous sets of search criterion provided and modified by the user indicates a refined version of the search criterion", as claimed in the present application. The systems described in Baker and Feldman do not utilize the history of search criterion used by the user to modify current search criterion provided by the user. Baker focuses on mind mining and does not disclose anything about the actual search quote used by the user. Fieldman describes intelligent agents that may determine that the user was reading articles on a particular subject and may prompt the user whether the subject-matter of those articles should be added to the user's Alert profile. But, Fieldman does not disclose automatically and transparently modifying current search criterion if historical analysis of previous search criterion used by the user indicated a refined version of the search criterion.

The Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 have been addressed, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. The Applicants furthermore submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicants hereby request such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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